Dear E&T Committee clerk Energy & Tech Comm Energy & Tech Comm,

Dear Senator Needleman, Representative Arconti, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee,

Please advance a Green New Deal for Connecticut by supporting Proposed Bill 5002.

As a young person in Connecticut, I firmly believe that climate change is the issue of my generation. I want to live in a world, unafraid and confident in a safe future that will sustain life for me and my kids. I want to be able to always live in a biodiverse world, instead of waiting for another endangered species to fall off the face of the Earth.

I ask the Committee to fully draft and support Green New Deal legislation that will achieve this vision by:

- Regaining the confidence of small businesses and saving money for working families by restoring the Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy funds and protecting ratepayer funds from future budget raids.
- Rapidly increasing use of solar and offshore wind and ensuring clean energy's benefits are accessible for low and middle income families.
- Upgrading coastal infrastructure to prepare for storms and sea level rise, including use of marshes, dunes, and rain gardens to prevent flooding and buffer waves.
- Making it easier for residents and businesses to adopt zero-emission vehicles, and investing in Connecticut's bus and rail systems.
- Generating high-quality employment for tens of thousands of Connecticut residents through a solar jobs training program, infrastructure investments, and community workforce agreements to hire from disadvantaged communities.

The environmental club at my local high school was actually planning on presenting a resolution to our local common council, and we would love to be involved in generating support for a CT Green New Deal!

Thank you so much for your hard work during this time of much needed action!

Sincerely,
Ms. Natalie Ochoa
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